

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 24-43 stand rejected. Claims 24, 29, 34, and 39 are amended. Claims 24-43 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 24-43 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,370,599 to Anand, et al. ("Anand") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,928,372 to Yoshida ("Yoshida"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended independent claims 24, 29, 34, and 39 to recite "using said SA to decode data received from a network infrastructure device." Support for this amendment may be found in the specification, for example, on page 5, lines 19-20 and page 8, lines 7-9.

Verifying the integrity of the security association (SA) before using the SA to decode data may prevent problems caused when a corrupted SA is used with incoming data, for example, as described in the specification on page 4, lines 18-25, and page 5, lines 1-6.

Applicants submit that, even if Anand and Yoshida could be combined, such combination fails to teach and suggest all of the claimed limitations. Anand discloses a system and method that offloads computing tasks to a network interface card (NIC) by appending packet extension data to the network data packet that is forwarded to the NIC (See Abstract). As described in greater detail in Anand, the packet extension 150 may specify a security function 154, such as encryption of the packet data (See col. 12, lines 15-19). As understood by applicants, the disclosure of Anand is limited to encryption of outgoing data packets being sent out by the NIC, as illustrated in FIG. 3. As such, Anand fails to disclose receiving a security association (SA) at a network adapter, verifying the SA, and then "using said SA to decode data received from a network infrastructure device," as recited in amended independent claims 24, 29, 34, and 39.

Yoshida fails to remedy this deficiency in Anand. The Office Action relies on Yoshida as teaching data verification in a data transfer system. Yoshida specifically focuses on verifying

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Serial Number: 09/849,126

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data transfer in a data processor equipped with an external recording unit (e.g., a disk drive). Nothing in Yoshida teaches or suggests the verification of a security association that is used to decode data received from a network infrastructure device. Even if the references were combined, therefore, the combination would not produce the claimed invention. At best, a combination of Anand and Yoshida might result in verification of all of the outgoing data packets being transferred to the NIC in Anand (or to some external recording unit) but would not result in verification of a security association used to decode incoming data.

Moreover, applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated apply the teaching of Yoshida to Anand. To modify Anand such that all of the outgoing data packets transferred to the NIC were verified would render Anand unsatisfactory for its intended purpose of “increasing the efficiency, speed and/or throughput of a computer system” (see col. 1, lines 21-23) and thus would not have been obvious. See MPEP 2143.01 (V).

Because Anand and Yoshida, even when combined, fail to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations recited in amended independent claims 24, 29, 34, and 39, applicants submit that these claims, and the claims dependent therefrom, would not have been obvious over these references. Accordingly, applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (603-668-6560) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,

AVRAHAM MUALEM ET AL.

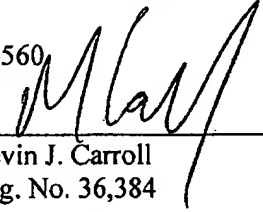
By their Representatives,

Customer Number: 45459

603-668-6560

Date 8-8-06

By


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 8 day of AUGUST 2006.

Kyrstin Ryan

Name

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